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instruments are inserted into the body, said tube structure having a proximal end and a distal end,

said tube structure including an expandable portion for enabling an increase in the cross-sectional area of said passage at said distal end of said tube structure.

Claim 2, line 1, please change "1" to --23--.

Claim 4, line 1, please change "1" to --23--.

Claim 5, line 1, please change "1" to --23--.

Claim 8, line 1, please change "1" to --23--.

Please rewrite claim 3 as new claim 24 as follows:

17 24. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments for performing a surgical procedure on a body, said cannula comprising:

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a tube structure defining a passage through which the surgical instruments are inserted into the body, said tube structure having a proximal end and a distal end,

said tube structure including an expandable portion for enabling an increase in the cross-sectional area of said passage at said distal end;

said expandable portion of said tube structure having an arcuate slot and a guide pin disposed in said arcuate slot, said guide pin being movable from a first terminal end of said slot to a second terminal end of said slot to enable the cross-sectional area of said passage at said distal end to increase.

Please rewrite claim 9 as new claim 25 as follows:

25. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments for performing a surgical procedure on a body, said cannula comprising:

a tube structure defining a passage through which the surgical instruments are inserted into the body, said tube structure having a proximal end and a distal end,

said tube structure including an expandable portion for enabling an increase in the cross-sectional area of said passage at said distal end;

said tube structure including first and second tubular portions attached to one another, said second tubular portion comprising said expandable portion;

said first tubular portion comprising a length of stainless steel tubing and said second tubular portion comprising an arcuate segment of stainless steel sheet stock rolled into a tubular shape.

Please rewrite claim 13 as new claim 26 as follows:

26. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments, said cannula comprising:

a first tubular portion defining a first passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said first passage having a first diameter, said first tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second tubular portion attached to said distal end of said first tubular portion and defining a second passage


for receiving the surgical instruments, said second passage being a continuation of said first passage,

said second tubular portion being diametrically expandable to enable enlargement of said second passage to a size which is greater than said first diameter of said first passage;

said second tubular portion having oppositely disposed first and second ends, said first end being attached to said distal end of said first tubular portion;

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said second passage at said second end of said second tubular portion, when said second tubular portion is expanded, having a second diameter which is greater than said first diameter of said first passage in said first tubular portion;

said second diameter of said second passage at said second end of said second tubular portion, when said second tubular portion is expanded, being 40% to 80% larger than said first diameter of said first passage.

Please rewrite claim 15 as new claim 27 as follows: 

2027. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments, said cannula comprising:

a first tubular portion defining a first passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said first passage having a first diameter, said first tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second tubular portion attached to said distal end of said first tubular portion and defining a second passage

for receiving the surgical instruments, said second passage being a continuation of said first passage,

said second tubular portion being diametrically expandable to enable enlargement of said second passage to a size which is greater than said first diameter of said first passage;

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said second tubular portion having an arcuate slot and a guide pin disposed in said arcuate slot, said guide pin being movable from a first terminal end of said arcuate slot to a second terminal end of said arcuate slot to enable said second tubular portion to expand diametrically.

Claim 16, line 1, please change "15" to --27--.

Please rewrite claim 19 as new claim 28 as follows:

228 28. A cannula for receiving surgical instruments, said cannula comprising:

a first tubular portion defining a first passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said first passage having a first diameter, said first tubular portion having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a second tubular portion attached to said distal end of said first tubular portion and defining a second passage for receiving the surgical instruments, said second passage being a continuation of said first passage,

said second tubular portion being diametrically expandable to enable enlargement of said second passage to a

size which is greater than said first diameter of said first passage;

Q12 said first and second tubular portions being made of metal;

said second tubular portion comprising an arcuate segment of stainless steel sheet stock.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been rewritten as claim 23 with language added to clarify that the increase in cross-sectional area that occurs by use of the claimed cannula occurs in an area that is within the passage of the cannula itself. Claims 2, 4, 5 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 23.

Claims 3, 9, 13, 15 and 19, indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, have been rewritten as new claims 24-28 respectively. Claim 16, also indicated as allowable, has been amended to depend from new claim 27. Thus, claims 16 and 24-28 are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is allowable over the references cited. Claim 23 recites a cannula comprising a tube structure that defines a passage extending through the tube structure and includes an expandable portion for enabling an increase in the cross-sectional area of the passage at the distal end of the tube structure. The area